

**GRENADA 1983** (Osprey. Men-At-Arms Series). By Lee E. Russell and M. Albert Mendez. Published by Osprey Publishing, London. \$7.15 MCA members. \$7.95 non-members.

The authors have done a fine job of summarizing the events leading up to the Grenada Operation of 1983 and the subsequent activities throughout the hostilities. They have also provided most of the photographs from the limited coverage available.

In addition, the 48 pages of *Grenada 1983* are filled with superb color illustrations of the various uniforms and equipment used by U.S., Cuban, Grenadian, Soviet, and Caribbean Peacekeeping Force personnel.

This is volume 159 in a series of such books by the publishers at Osprey. There are currently 161 volumes listed which deal with men-at-arms from medieval times to the present. The Grenada book should be of interest to the participants, personally, and to other military personnel, professionally. The whole series is a mother lode of valuable reference material for the military historian.

Bob Jordan

## Books Reviewed



*Books reviewed in this column may be purchased through the Marine Corps Association Bookservice at the prices listed for MCA members and non-members. Subscribers to Leatherneck and the Marine Corps GAZETTE may order books at MCA members' prices. Please include \$1.00 for shipping and handling, plus 50¢ for each additional book. Make check or money order payable to MCA, Box 1775, Quantico, Va. 22134. Prices subject to change.*

**SAIGON.** By Anthony Grey. Published by Dell Publishing Co. Available in hardcover for \$17.95 to MCA members; \$19.95 non-members. Also in paperback. \$4.45 MCA members; \$4.95 non-members.

As the title suggests, Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) is the focal point for this epic novel concerning the struggle of the Vietnamese people over a 50-year period from 1925 to 1975. The author presents a rich historical tapestry woven between the dramatic threads of love, hate, courage, betrayal, victory and defeat.

Although Grey has accomplished a monumental literary feat, *Saigon* would have fared better, in my view, as a trilogy. Grey's literary device is to use three generations of the Sherman family as central characters. Through their eyes you view the Vietnamese drama. Their conflicts, weaknesses, excesses and their naivete symbolize the American involvement in Southeast Asia.

Through the Shermans, you're introduced to Ho Chi Minh, President Diem and other major actors of the Vietnamese tragedy. It's a sympathetic portrait, drawn with much sensitivity and understanding. But the plot is weak in spots. Some characters are left two-dimensional, and seemingly casual relationships result in bonds which strain the author's credibility. Grey forces his characters into unrealistic conversations, using them to deliver history lessons which tend to drag too much.

A three-volume series would have permitted the author to flesh out his characters. His historical panorama could then have been painted with broader strokes rather than the short, fussy sketches we see in *Saigon*. Still, Grey has given us one of the best historical novels yet produced about our involvement in Southeast Asia.

Bob Jordan

**EAGLE AGAINST THE SUN.** By Ronald H. Spector. Published by The Free Press. 561 pages. \$22.45 MCA members. \$24.95 non-members.

This highly acclaimed history of the United States' war with Japan lives up to its advance publicity. Spector weaves the facts together with his personal assessments in a very convincing and interesting manner.

In this single volume, the author, a Marine Reserve officer, gives one a broad brush panorama of the war in the Pacific from India to Pearl Harbor and the thousands of islands be-



tween. His assessments drive beyond the myths and cut to the core of human frailty of such legendary giants as MacArthur, Spruance and Halsey. He also gives us an intimate portrait of the Japanese leaders and details the parochial strivings between the general staffs of the Army and the Navy staffs in both countries.

"Eagle Against the Sun" gives the reader a greater appreciation of the enormous challenges faced by the military men who fought in that arena and a greater understanding of the political and professional compromises with which they had to deal.

Bob Jordan



**SMALL UNIT LEADERSHIP—A Commonsense Approach.** By Col Dandridge M. Malone, USA (Ret'd). Published by Presidio Press. 164 pages. \$8.05 MCA members. \$8.95 non-members.

The emphasis in this leadership guide is on *common sense!*

Col Malone not only provides handy guides on *what* should be done and *how* it should be done...he also aids the reader in how to *know* that desired results are being achieved.

Included among Malone's jewels of leadership wisdom are anecdotes drawn from life which demonstrate his principles. Many of these are based on Marine Corps activities in Vietnam.

Bob Jordan



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